

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

August 10, 2010

The recent revelations in the City of Bell over the salaries of elected and appointed officials have focused public attention and concern about the issue up and down the State of California.

Participatory democracy depends on the consent of the governed, and nothing is more important than maintaining open government and ensuring that public officials and employees are fully accountable and responsible.

Responding to the Bell controversy, the City Managers' Department of the League of California Cities formed an internal task force to develop recommendations for legal reforms and best practices guidelines to bring greater transparency to both local and state government decisions about compensation of public officials and administrators. When completed, these will be shared with the League's board of directors and the Legislature for possible adoption and enactment.

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger, recently addressing a group of business leaders in San Diego, declared that if local governments have "nothing to hide," they should post

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the salaries of officials online. The County of Los Angeles has long done so, listing the salaries of the five Supervisors, Superior Court Judges and Commissioners, along with the Sheriff, District Attorney and Assessor.

The salaries of all government employees are a matter of public record, and the County additionally posts online the salary ranges of all County employee classifications, excluding only department heads. We can and should do more, particularly regarding the salaries of top administrators, the issue that recently proved so problematic in the City of Bell.

I, THEREFORE MOVE that the Board of Supervisors instruct the Chief Executive Officer and the Auditor-Controller within two weeks to compile, post online and regularly update in the future the name and salary information for all County department heads.

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